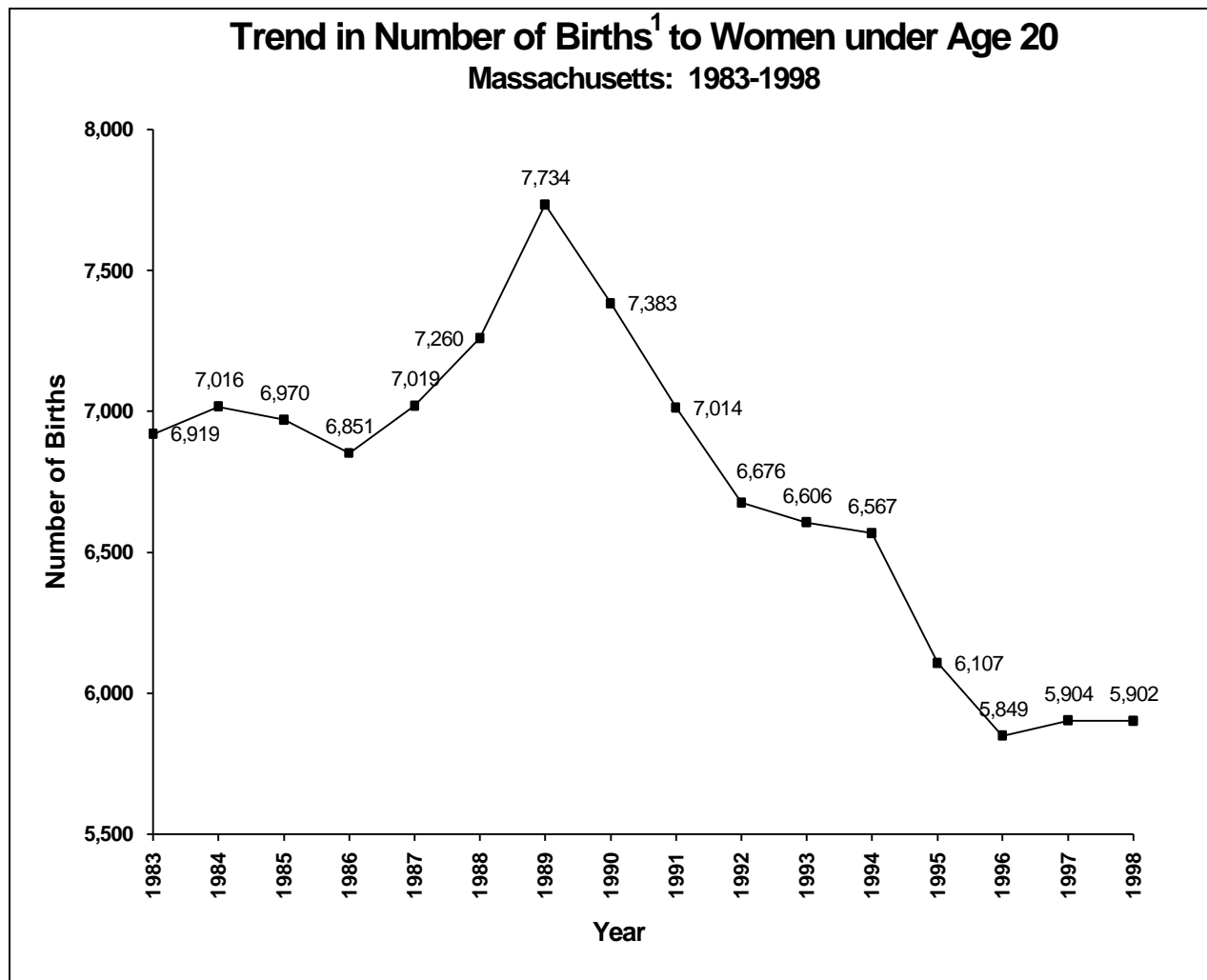


I.

*Demographic
and Birth
Characteristics*

Figure 1.

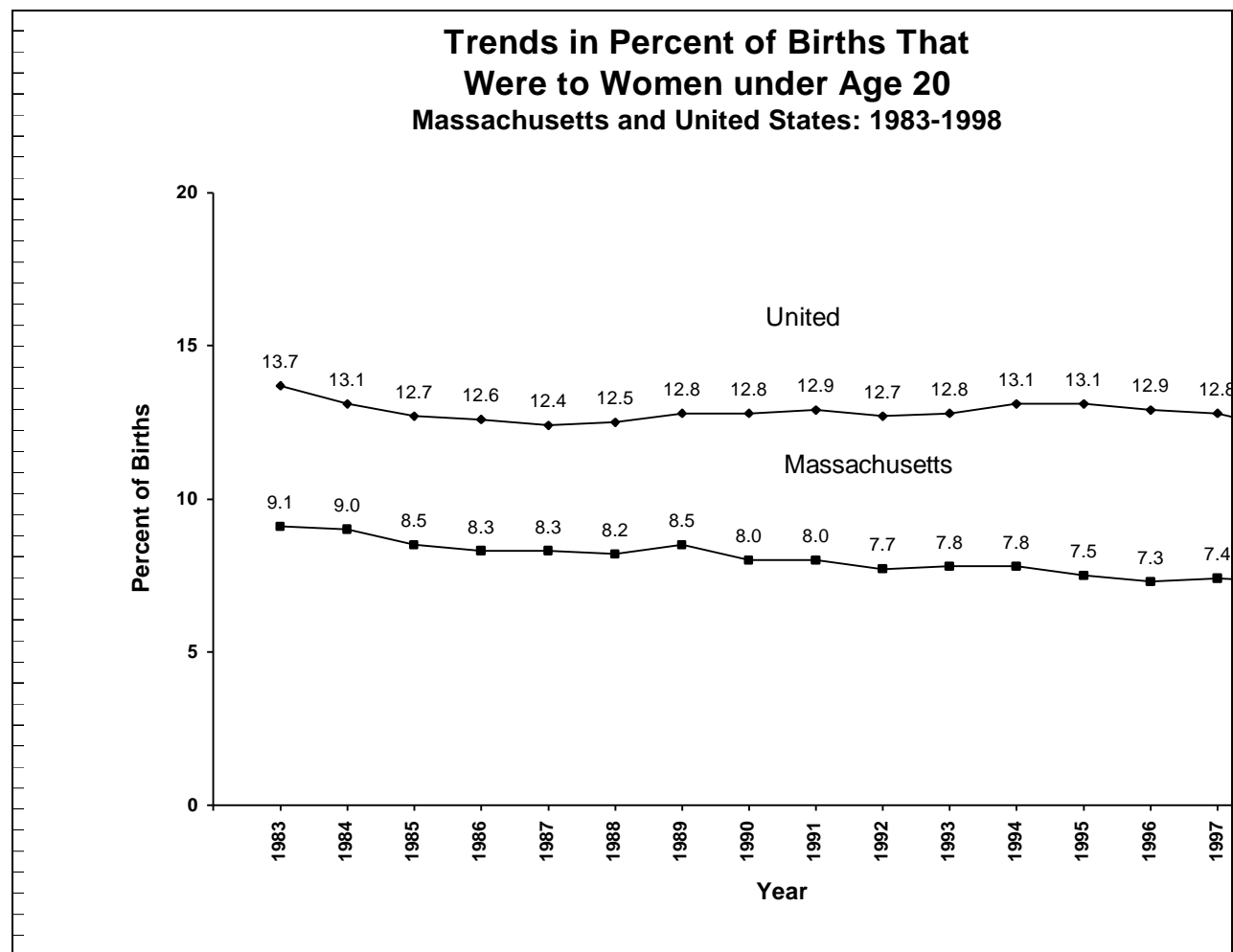


Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1983-1998.

¹ Live births to Massachusetts residents.

- In 1998, 5,902 infants were born to women under age 20, a decrease of 2 births from the previous year. 1997 saw the first increase in teen births in eight years.
- Since its peak in 1989, the number of births to teens has declined by 23.7% from 7,734 births to 5,902. Despite this sharp decline over the period, the number of teen births in Massachusetts has remained relatively stable over the past 3 years.

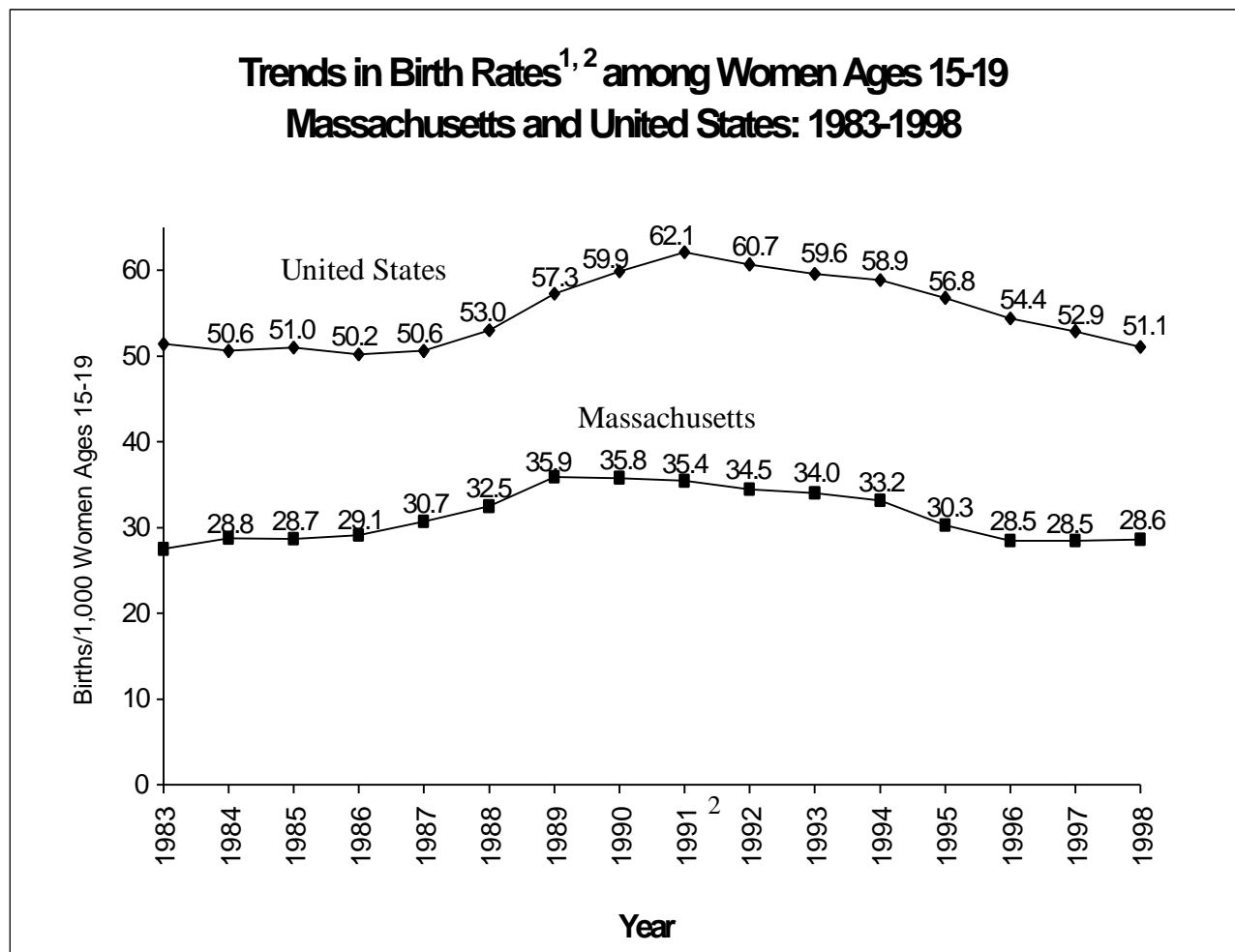
Figure 2.



Sources: MA data: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1983-1998;
U.S. data: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), 1983-1998.

- In 1998, 7.3% of all births in Massachusetts were to women under age 20, remaining similar to the figure of 7.4% reported in 1997.
- Since 1983, the percentage of births that were to women under 20 has decreased 19.8% from 9.1% to 7.3%.
- The percentage of births that were to teen mothers nationally dropped more noticeably in 1998 than the percentage for Massachusetts. The national percentage, however, at 12.3% continues to be substantially higher than the percentage for Massachusetts (7.3%).

Figure 3.



Sources: MA data: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE , 1983-1998.

U.S. data: National Center for Health and Statistics (NCHS), 1983-1998.

1 Number of births per 1,000 women ages 15-19.

2 Data from 1991 to 1997 was recalculated using new population estimates (see Technical Notes).

- The 1998 Massachusetts teen birth rate was 28.6 births per 1,000 women ages 15-19. The teen birth rate remained stable from the previous year. Between 1990 and 1998, the teen birth rate for Massachusetts has declined 20.1%.
- Although the Massachusetts teen birth rate remains significantly lower than the national teen birth rate (28.6% compared to 51.1% in 1998), the national rate has dropped more steadily in recent years while the Massachusetts rate has remained relatively constant.

Table 1.
Trends in Teen Births by Mother's Age
Massachusetts: 1993-1998

Mother's Age	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
12-19	6,606	100.0	6,567	100.0	6,107	100.0	5,849	100.0	5,904	100.0	5,902	100.0
12-13	16	0.2	24	0.4	19	0.3	11	0.2	19	0.3	14	0.2
14	121	1.8	131	2.0	98	1.6	80	1.4	84	1.4	65	1.1
15	360	5.1	371	5.6	356	5.8	342	5.8	290	4.9	271	4.6
16	741	11.2	822	12.5	721	11.8	687	11.7	694	11.8	663	11.2
17	1,259	19.1	1,244	18.9	1,203	19.7	1,115	19.1	1,121	19.0	1,120	19.0
18	1,872	28.3	1,758	26.8	1,648	27.0	1,666	28.5	1,613	27.3	1,710	29.0
19	2,237	33.9	2,217	33.8	2,062	33.8	1,948	33.3	2,083	35.3	2,059	34.9

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1993-1998.

- In 1998, 63.9% of all teen births occurred among women ages 18-19 years, 34.8% among women ages 15-17 years, and 1.3% among women under age 15.
- The age distribution of teen women giving birth has remained relatively unchanged, with age and number of births being directly related. Of women under 20, the majority of births continued to occur in the 18-19 year old range, while, as in the last seven years, approximately 40% of births (36.1% in 1998) were to women under 18.
- The largest increase in percentage of births from 1997 to 1998 occurred among women aged 18 from 27.3% to 29.0%, while the largest percentage decrease occurred among women aged 16 from 11.8% to 11.2%.

Table 2.
Trends in Teen Births¹ by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity
Massachusetts: 1993-1998

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	6,606	100.0	6,567	100.0	6,107	100.0	5,849	100.0	5,904	100.0	5,902	100.0
White*	3,450	52.2	3,303	50.3	3,209	52.5	2,952	50.5	2,865	48.5	2,953	50.0
Black*	1,003	15.2	997	15.2	865	14.2	810	13.8	794	13.4	745	12.6
Hispanic	1,809	27.4	1,950	29.7	1,727	28.3	1,722	29.4	1,807	30.6	1,775	30.1
Asian*	180	2.7	188	2.9	163	2.7	164	2.8	214	3.6	185	3.1
Other*	156	2.4	126	1.9	134	2.2	155	2.7	205	3.5	239	4.0
Unknown	8	0.1	3	**	9	0.1	46	0.8	19	0.3	5	0.1

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1993-1998.

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

¹ Births to women ages 12-19.

- In 1998, 50.0% of all teen births (<20 years of age) were to women whose race/Hispanic ethnicity was white non-Hispanic. The proportion of teen births in this category has remained relatively stable since 1993.
- Over the 5 year period from 1993 to 1998, among all teen mothers, the percentage of infants born to black non-Hispanic women has decreased from 15.2% to 12.6%, while the percentage of infants born to Hispanic women has increased from 27.4% to 30.1%.
- Asian mothers continue to account for only a small percentage (3.1% in 1998) of all teen births.

Table 3.
Teen Births by Mother's Age and Race/Hispanic Ethnicity
Massachusetts: 1998

Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	%¹	N	%¹	N	%¹	N	%¹	N	%¹	N	%¹	N	%¹
< 20	2,953	100.0	745	100.0	1,775	100.0	185	100.0	239	100.0	5	100.0	5,902	100.0
18-19	2,091	70.8	444	59.6	1,010	56.9	89	48.1	132	55.2	3	**	3,769	63.9
16-17	764	25.9	249	33.4	600	33.8	76	41.1	92	38.5	2	**	1,783	30.2
12-15	98	3.3	52	7.0	165	9.3	20	10.8	15	6.3	0	0.0	350	5.9

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998.

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

¹ Percentages are based on column totals. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

- Teen births to white non-Hispanic women most often occurred within the 18-19 year old age category, representing 70.8% of all teen births for that race. Other race/Hispanic ethnic groups showed a lower prevalence of teen births in the 18-19 year old age category than whites; black non-Hispanic (59.6%), Hispanic (56.9%), and Asian (48.1%).
- Similarly, teen births to women under age 18 remained the lowest among white non-Hispanic women accounting for 29.2% of all teen births for that group. The births to women under age 18 accounted for 51.9% of all teen births for Asian mothers, 43.1% of all teen births for Hispanic mothers, and 40.4% of all teen births for black non-Hispanic mothers.
- Overall, the percentage of teen births to women in the 12-15 year age range has decreased by 11.9% from 1997 (6.7%) to 1998 (5.9%), with the highest decline among white non-Hispanic at 13.2% (from 3.8% to 3.3%), followed by Asian women at 10.7% (from 12.1% to 10.8%), black non-Hispanic at 10.3% (from 7.8% to 7.0%), and Hispanic women at 8.8% (from 10.2% to 9.3%).

Table 4.
Births by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age: Massachusetts: 1998

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	Under 18 Years		18 to 19 Years		Under 20 Years		20 Years & Older		All Ages ¹	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
Total Births³	2,133	100.0	3,769	100.0	5,902	100.0	75,501	100.0	81,406	100.0
White*	862	40.4	2,091	55.5	2,953	50.0	58,810	77.9	61,765	75.9
Black*	301	14.1	444	11.8	745	12.6	4,804	6.4	5,549	6.8
African-American	216	10.1	310	8.2	526	8.9	2,219	2.9	2,745	3.4
West Indian	11	0.5	28	0.7	39	0.7	489	0.6	528	0.6
Haitian	17	0.8	27	0.7	44	0.7	859	1.1	903	1.1
Other Black	57	2.7	79	2.2	136	2.3	1,237	1.8	1,373	1.7
Hispanic	765	35.9	1,010	26.8	1,775	30.1	6,890	9.1	8,665	10.6
Puerto Rican	568	26.6	697	18.5	1,265	21.4	3,198	4.2	4,463	5.5
Dominican	85	4.0	133	3.5	218	3.7	1,275	1.7	1,493	1.8
Salvadoran	18	0.8	45	1.2	63	1.1	536	0.7	599	0.7
Central Amer.	29	1.4	40	1.1	69	1.2	594	0.8	663	0.8
Other Hispanic	65	3.0	95	2.5	160	2.7	1,287	1.7	1,447	1.8
Asian*	96	4.5	89	2.4	185	3.1	3,562	4.7	3,748	4.6
Vietnamese	13	0.6	14	0.4	27	0.5	545	0.7	672	0.7
Cambodian	60	2.8	34	0.9	94	1.6	394	0.5	488	0.6
Chinese	2	**	3	**	5	0.1	1,057	1.4	1,062	1.3
Other Asian	21	1.0	38	1.0	59	0.9	1,566	2.1	1,526	2.0
Other*	107	5.0	132	3.5	239	4.0	1,291	1.7	1,530	1.9
Unknown	2	**	3	**	5	0.1	144	0.2	149	0.2

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998. *Non-Hispanic ** Calculations with less than 5 events are excluded.

1 "All Ages" include Unknowns 2 Percentages are based on column totals. Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding. 3 Classifications are self-reported based on mother's race.

- The number of births to teen and adult mothers differed substantially by race/Hispanic ethnicity. White non-Hispanic women accounted for 50% of all teen births and 77.9% of all births to adult mothers. Conversely, Hispanic women accounted for 30.1% of all teen births but only 9.1% of births to adult mothers.
- The number of births for teen mothers under 18 was highest among white non-Hispanic women accounting for 40.4% of all births in that age group, followed by the Hispanic (35.9%), black non-Hispanic (14.1%), and Asian (4.5%) categories.
- The number of births also varied substantially within specific ethnic subgroups. As in previous years, approximately one in five teen births (mothers <20 years old) were born to Puerto Rican women (21.4%). Puerto Rican women similarly accounted for 71.3% of all Hispanic teen births, a decrease of 1.5% from 1997 (72.4% in 1997).
- Cambodian women accounted for 50.8% of Asian births to mothers less than 20 years of age.

Table 5.
Births by Mother's Age, Place of Birth, and
Race/Hispanic Ethnicity
Massachusetts: 1998

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	Under 20 Years				20 Years and Older			
	United States ¹		Other		United States ¹		Other	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
Total Births	5,117	86.7	785	13.3	61,293	75.3	14,211	24.7
White*	2,846	96.4	107	3.6	54,112	92.0	4,700	8.0
Black*	639	85.8	106	14.2	2,737	57.0	2,067	43.0
African American	515	97.9	11	2.1	2,128	95.9	91	4.1
West Indian	6	15.4	33	84.6	52	10.6	437	89.4
Haitian	5	11.4	39	88.6	33	3.8	826	96.2
African	3	**	6	66.7	21	3.9	511	96.1
Other Black	110	86.6	17	13.4	503	71.3	202	28.7
Hispanic	1,431	80.6	344	19.4	3,738	54.3	3,152	45.7
Puerto Rican	1,254	99.1	11	0.9	3,151	98.5	47	1.5
Dominican	60	27.5	158	72.5	124	9.7	1,151	90.3
Salvador	4	**	59	93.7	11	2.1	525	97.9
Cntrl American	14	20.3	55	79.7	45	7.6	549	92.4
Other Hispanic	99	61.9	61	38.1	407	31.6	880	68.4
Asian*	36	19.5	149	80.5	243	6.8	3,320	93.2
Vietnamese	4	**	23	85.2	5	0.9	555	99.1
Cambodian	15	15.5	82	84.5	2	**	411	99.5
Chinese	3	**	2	**	108	10.1	958	89.9
Asian Indian	0	0.0	2	**	14	2.3	596	97.7
Other Asian	14	25.9	40	74.1	114	12.5	800	87.5
Other	165	69.0	74	31.0	463	35.9	828	64.1
Unknown³	0	0.0	5	100.0	0	0.0	144	100.0

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998.

* Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

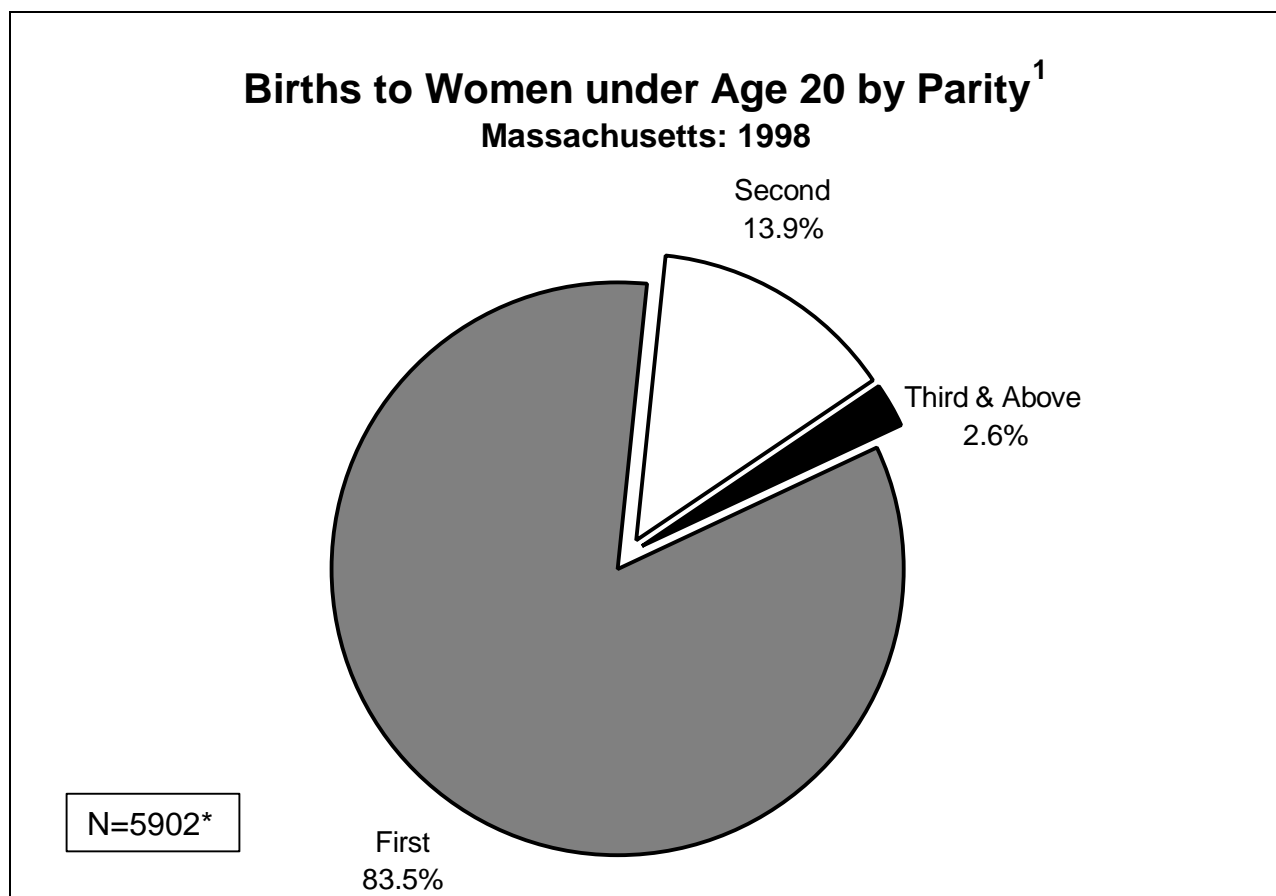
1 United States includes the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. territories.

2 Percentages are based on known maternal country of origin; percentages are calculated on row totals within each age category.

3 Unknown: Mothers who did not indicate a race/ethnicity.

- 86.7% of all teen mothers were born in the United States or U.S. territories; among older mothers (20 years and older), there was a slightly lower percentage (75.3%).
- The percentage of mothers born outside the U.S. varied by race/Hispanic ethnicity within each maternal age group. Among teen births, the majority of black non-Hispanic mothers (85.8%) were born in the U.S., in contrast to Asian teen mothers, where the majority (80.5%) were born outside the U.S. A similar pattern was seen among older mothers.
- 80.6% of Hispanic teen mothers were born within the United States or U.S. territories, compared to 54.3% of older Hispanic mothers. Regardless of age, there was variation in the proportion of mothers born outside the U.S. across ethnic subgroups.

Figure 4.



Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998.

* Percentages are based on births with known parity.

¹ Parity: The number of live infants ever born to the mother. Parity includes all previous live births as well as the infant named on the birth certificate.

- In 1998, 16.5% of teen births were to mothers with at least one prior live birth; 2.6% of teen births were to mothers with two or more prior live births. These figures showed little change from corresponding 1997 values (data not shown).

Table 6.
Births to Multiparous¹ Mothers by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1998

Multiparous Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
All Ages³	34,770	56.3	3,378	60.9	5,240	60.5	1,851	49.4	826	54.0	39	26.2	46,104	56.6
20 +	34,411	58.5	3,246	67.6	4,817	69.9	1,814	50.9	799	61.9	39	27.1	45,126	59.8
< 20	357	12.1	132	17.7	423	23.8	36	19.5	27	11.3	0	0.0	975	16.5
18-19	315	15.1	111	25.0	319	31.6	25	28.1	22	16.7	0	0.0	792	21.0
12-17	42	4.9	21	7.0	104	13.6	11	11.5	5	4.7	0	0.0	183	8.6

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998.

* Non-Hispanic

¹ Multiparous women have had at least one previous live birth.

² Percentages are based on the total number of births in each race/Hispanic ethnicity-age group (data not shown).

³ "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- The percentage of teen mothers who had at least one prior live birth declined 8.3% from 18.0% in 1997 to 16.5% in 1998. This decline was most visible within the younger teen mother category (ages 12-17) where the percentage of multiparous mothers dropped 20.4% from 10.8% in 1997 to 8.6% in 1998 (1997 data not shown).
- In 1998, 31.6% of births to Hispanic women ages 18-19, 28.1% of births to Asian women, and 25.0% of births to black non-Hispanic women ages 18-19 were to women who already had at least one live birth.

**Table 7. Births by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity, Age,
and Prenatal Care Payment Source: Massachusetts: 1998**

Mother's Race/Ethnicity	12 to 17 Years		18 to 19 Years		Under 20 Years		20 Years & Older		All Ages	
	N ²	% ³	N ²	% ³	N ²	% ³	N ²	% ³	N ²	% ³
Total Births	2,133	100.0	3,769	100.0	5,902	100.0	75,504	100.0	81,406	100.0
Public ⁴	1,456	68.2	2,586	68.6	4,042	68.5	16,028	21.2	20,070	24.6
Private ⁵	107	5.0	173	4.6	280	4.7	9,104	12.1	9,384	11.5
HMO ⁶	500	23.4	882	23.4	1,382	23.4	47,773	63.3	49,155	60.4
Other ⁷	70	3.3	128	3.4	198	3.4	2,555	3.4	2,753	3.4
White*	862	100.0	2,091	100.0	2,953	100.0	58,812	100.0	61,765	100.0
Public ⁴	442	51.3	1,230	58.8	1,672	56.6	7,860	13.4	9,532	15.4
Private ⁵	57	6.6	115	5.5	172	5.8	7,651	13.0	7,823	12.7
HMO ⁶	321	37.2	655	31.3	976	33.1	41,164	70.0	42,140	68.2
Other ⁷	42	4.9	91	4.4	133	4.5	2,137	3.6	2,270	3.7
Black*	301	100.0	444	100.0	745	100.0	4,804	100.0	5,549	100.0
Public ⁴	227	75.4	339	76.4	566	76.0	2,441	50.8	3,007	54.2
Private ⁵	13	4.3	22	5.0	35	4.7	363	7.6	398	7.2
HMO ⁶	54	17.9	71	16.0	125	16.8	1,887	39.3	2,012	36.3
Other ⁷	7	2.3	12	2.7	19	2.6	113	2.4	132	2.4
Hispanic	765	100.0	1,010	100.0	1,775	100.0	6,890	100.0	8,665	100.0
Public ⁴	637	83.3	858	85.0	1,495	84.2	4,294	62.3	5,789	66.8
Private ⁵	27	3.5	27	2.7	54	3.0	464	6.7	518	6.0
HMO ⁶	85	11.1	103	10.2	188	10.6	1,990	28.9	2,178	25.1
Other ⁷	16	2.1	22	2.2	38	2.1	142	2.1	180	2.1
Asian*	96	100.0	89	100.0	185	100.0	3,563	100.0	3,748	100.0
Public ⁴	75	78.1	59	66.3	134	72.4	769	21.6	903	24.1
Private ⁵	4	**	3	**	7	3.8	506	14.2	513	13.7
HMO ⁶	14	14.6	26	29.2	40	21.6	2,218	62.3	2,258	60.2
Other ⁷	3	**	1	**	4	**	70	2.0	74	2.0
Other	107	100.0	132	100.0	239	100.0	1,291	100.0	1,530	100.0
Public ⁴	74	69.2	99	75.0	173	72.4	656	50.8	829	54.2
Private ⁵	6	5.6	6	4.5	12	5.0	113	8.8	125	8.2
HMO ⁶	26	24.3	27	20.5	53	22.2	478	37.0	531	34.7
Other ⁷	1	**	0	0.0	1	**	44	3.4	45	2.9
Unknown	2	**	3	**	5	100.0	144	100.0	149	100.0
Public ⁴	1	**	1	**	2	**	8	5.6	10	6.7
Private ⁵	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	4.9	7	4.7
HMO ⁶	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	36	25.0	36	24.2
Other ⁷	1	**	2	**	3	**	93	64.6	96	64.4

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998.

*Non-Hispanic

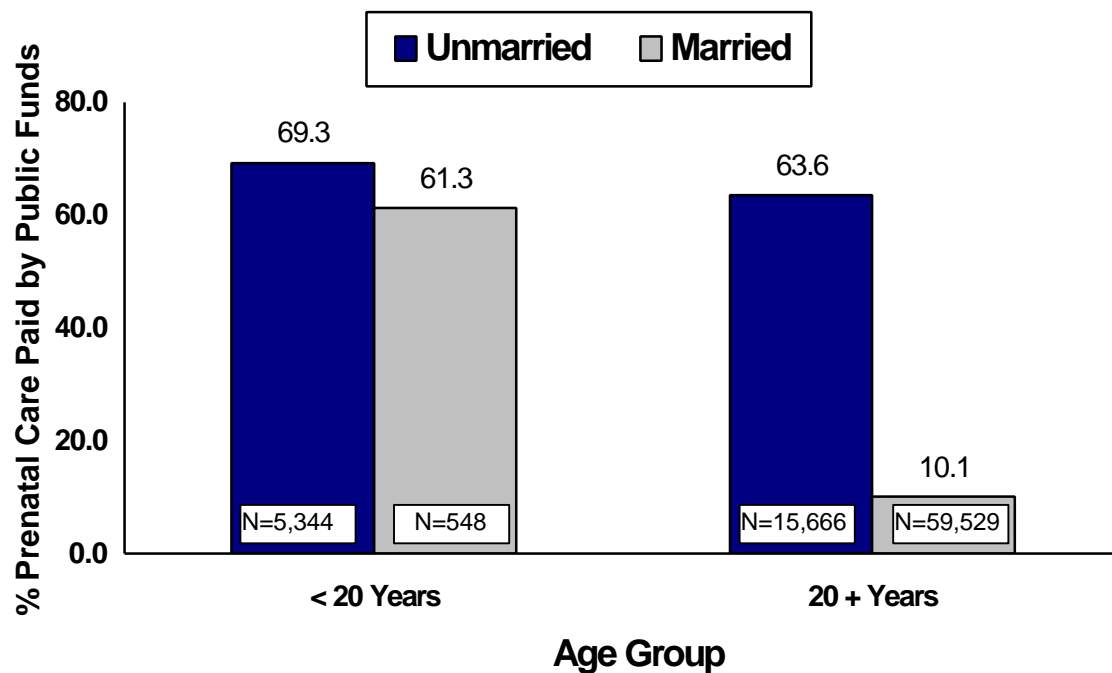
**Calculations based on 1-4 events are excluded.

¹ "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age. ² Only births with known prenatal care payment source are included. ³ Percentages are based on race/Hispanic ethnicity totals. Percentages for "Public" and "Private" do not add up to 100 because the total includes "Other" sources (i.e. Workers Compensation and self pay. ⁴ Public: Mass Health (Medicaid), Medicare, Healthy Start, free care and other government programs. Free care was included in this category for the first time in 1997 (see Technical Notes); therefore, these data are not comparable with prior reports. ⁵ Private: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, other commercial insurance. ⁶ HMO: Health Maintenance Organizations includes both public and private HMO participants ⁷ Other: Worker's Compensation and self pay.

- The percentage of teen mothers whose prenatal care was supported through public funds was 68.5% in 1998. In contrast, only 21.2% of women 20 and older had their prenatal care supported through public funds in 1998. The opposite trend is present in the use of HMOs as a source of prenatal care. Only 23.4% of teen mothers in 1998 relied on HMOs as a source of prenatal care compared to 63.3% of adult mothers.
- Among teen mothers, the percentage receiving publicly funded prenatal care varied by race/Hispanic ethnicity: 56.6% of white non-Hispanic teen mothers, 76.0% of black non-Hispanic teen mothers, 84.3% of Hispanic teen mothers, and 72.4% of Asian teen mothers received publicly funded prenatal care.
- Compared with teen mothers, the percentage of adult mothers who received publicly funded prenatal care was lower within each race/Hispanic ethnicity group. The difference between teens and adults was most pronounced among Asian mothers (72.4% and 21.6%, respectively), and least pronounced among black non-Hispanic mothers (76.0% and 50.8%, respectively).
- Adult white non-Hispanic mothers relied heavily on HMOs as a source of payment for prenatal care (70.0% of women in this category). This contrasts sharply with other race/Hispanic ethnic groups including Hispanic women where only 28.9% of adult mothers relied on HMOs as a funding source.

Figure 5.

Age and Marital Status* of Mothers Using Public Payment Sources for Prenatal Care Massachusetts, 1998



Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998.

*Unknowns are excluded.

- In 1998, 69.3% of unmarried teen mothers and 61.3% of married teen mothers received publicly funded prenatal care. There was little change in these percentages from 1997. The contrast was much greater among adult mothers, where 63.6% of unmarried adult mothers received publicly funded prenatal care compared to only 10.1% of married adult mothers.

Table 8.
Trends in Births to Unmarried Mothers by Age of Mother
Massachusetts: 1993-1998

Unmarried Mother's Age	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	
	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹	N	% ¹
All Ages²	22,345	26.4	22,302	26.6	20,857	25.6	20,429	25.5	20,640	25.7	21,191	26.0
20 +	16,462	21.1	16,416	21.3	15,370	20.4	15,147	20.4	15,300	20.6	15,841	21.0
< 20	5,883	89.1	5,886	89.6	5,487	89.9	5,282	90.3	5,339	90.4	5,350	90.7
18-19	3,515	85.5	3,433	86.4	3,210	86.5	3,145	87.0	3,216	87.0	3,300	87.6
12-17	2,368	94.8	2,453	94.6	2,277	95.0	2,137	95.6	2,123	95.6	2,050	96.2

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1993-1998.

¹ Percentages are based on total number of births within each category.

² "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- The percentage of all Massachusetts births to unmarried women has essentially remained stable since 1993. There remains a considerable difference in the marital status between teens and adult mothers.
- The most noticeable change between 1993 and 1998 occurred among mothers in the 18-19 year age category. In 1993, 85.5% of mothers in this group were unmarried compared to 87.6% of 18-19 year old mothers in 1998.

Table 9.
Births to Unmarried Mothers by Mother's Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1998

Unmarried Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
All Ages¹	11,218	18.2	3,384	61.0	5,195	60.0	607	16.2	759	49.6	28	20.3	21,191	26.0
20+	8,554	14.5	2,665	55.5	3,606	52.3	451	12.7	540	41.8	25	17.4	15,841	21.0
< 20	2,664	90.2	719	96.4	1,589	89.6	156	84.3	219	91.6	3	**	5,350	90.7
18-19	1,836	87.8	420	94.4	863	85.5	65	73.0	114	86.4	2	**	3,300	87.5
12-17	828	96.1	299	99.3	726	94.9	91	94.8	105	98.1	1	**	2,050	96.2

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998.

*Non-Hispanic

** Calculations based on less than 5 events are excluded.

1 "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

2 Percentages are based on total number of births within each category.

- The overall percentage of births to unmarried mothers varied substantially by race/Hispanic ethnicity in 1998. Among births to women of all ages, 18.2% of white non-Hispanic women were unmarried, while 61.0% of black non-Hispanic, 60.0% of Hispanic women, and 16.2% of Asian women were unmarried.
- There is considerably less variation in marital status by race/Hispanic ethnicity among teen mothers (< 20 years of age); 90.2% of white non-Hispanic teen mothers were unmarried, while 96.4% of black non-Hispanic, 89.6% of Hispanic, and 84.3% of Asian teen mothers were unmarried.

Table 10.
Trends in In-Hospital Paternity Acknowledgment¹ by Age of Unmarried Mother
Massachusetts: 1993-1998

Unmarried Mother's Age	1993		1994		1995		1996		1997		1998	
	N	% ³	N	% ³	N	% ³	N	% ³	N	% ³	N	% ³
All Ages²	11,329	50.7	11,904	53.4	12,223	58.6	13,195	66.0	14,433	69.9	14,724	69.5
20+	8,487	51.6	8,944	54.5	9,251	60.2	9,939	67.1	10,906	71.3	11,253	71.0
< 20	2,842	48.3	2,960	50.3	2,972	54.2	3,256	62.8	3,526	66.0	3,471	64.9
18-19	1,812	51.6	1,785	52.0	1,833	57.1	1,999	65.0	2,199	68.4	2,210	67.0
12-17	1,030	43.5	1,175	47.9	1,139	50.0	1,257	59.7	1,327	62.5	1,261	61.5

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1993-1998.

¹ Paternity acknowledgment: voluntary self-acknowledgment by fathers or acknowledgment through legal action. This table reflects data collected in hospitals, at time of birth only (see Glossary for further explanation).

² "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

³ Percentages are based on total number of births within each category.

- The overall percentage of births to unmarried women of all ages with paternity acknowledgment in the birth hospital increased from 50.7% in 1993 to 69.5% in 1998.
- Paternity acknowledgment occurred at a lower rate among unmarried teens than among unmarried adults. In 1998, 64.9% of births to unmarried teen mothers (ages <20) and 71.0% of births to unmarried adult mothers (ages 20+) included in-hospital paternity acknowledgement.
- Despite a slight decrease between 1997 and 1998 in paternity acknowledgment for infants born to unmarried teens among both young teen mothers (12-17 years old) and older teens (18-19 years old) from 1997 to 1998, there has been an overall increase in paternity acknowledgement for both age groups since 1993. The percentage of paternity acknowledgment for births to older unmarried teens increased from 51.6% in 1993 to 67.0% in 1998, while the corresponding percentage among younger unmarried teen women increased from 43.5% in 1993 to 61.5% in 1998.

Table 11.
In-Hospital Paternity Acknowledgment¹ by Unmarried Mother's
Race/Hispanic Ethnicity and Age
Massachusetts: 1998

Unmarried Mother's Age	White*		Black*		Hispanic		Asian*		Other*		Unknown		Total	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
All Ages³	8,608	75.9	1,776	54.5	3,474	66.8	370	61.0	483	63.6	13	46.4	14,724	69.5
20+	6,740	77.7	1,430	56.3	2,455	68.0	269	59.6	346	64.1	13	52.0	11,253	71.0
< 20	1,868	70.1	346	48.2	1,019	64.1	101	64.7	137	62.6	0	0.0	3,471	64.9
18-19	1,317	71.7	213	50.8	563	65.2	41	63.1	76	66.7	0	0.0	2,210	67.0
12-17	551	66.5	133	44.5	456	62.8	60	65.9	61	58.1	0	0.0	1,261	61.5

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998.

* Non-Hispanic

¹ Only includes births with in-hospital paternity acknowledgment (see Glossary for further explanation).

² Percentages are based on the total number of births to unmarried mothers within each category.

³ "All Ages" includes mothers of unknown age.

- Among women of all ages, in-hospital paternity acknowledgment varied widely by race/Hispanic ethnicity, ranging from a high of 75.9% among white non-Hispanic unmarried mothers to a low of 54.5% among black non-Hispanic unmarried mothers.
- The variation in paternity acknowledgment across race/Hispanic ethnicity groups was seen among births to both adult and teen unmarried women. Generally, however, in-hospital paternity acknowledgement was less common among younger mothers in each race/Hispanic ethnicity group. The only contradiction to this trend occurred among Asian women where in-hospital paternity acknowledgement was higher for unmarried teen mothers (64.7%) than unmarried adult mothers (59.6%).

Table 12.
Father's Age by Unmarried Mother's Age for Births with Acknowledged Paternity¹
Massachusetts: 1998

Unmarried Mother's Age	Father's Age													
	12-15		16-17		18-19		20-24		25-29		30 and Older		Total ³	
	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²	N	% ²
20 +	2	**	47	0.4	312	2.8	2,937	26.3	3,436	30.7	4,452	39.8	11,217	100.0
< 20	45	1.3	415	12.0	1,040	30.0	1,518	43.8	306	8.8	142	4.1	3,468	100.0
< 18	40	3.2	289	22.9	474	37.6	373	29.6	56	4.4	29	2.3	1,261	100.0
18-19	5	0.2	126	5.7	566	25.6	1,145	51.9	250	11.3	113	5.2	2,207	100.0
16-17	14	1.3	219	20.5	410	38.4	343	32.1	52	4.9	29	2.7	1,067	100.0
12-15	26	13.4	70	36.1	64	33.0	30	15.5	4	**	0	0.0	194	100.0

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, MDPH, BHRSE, 1998.

** Calculations based on fewer than five events are excluded.

¹ Only includes births with in-hospital paternity acknowledgment (see Glossary for further explanation).

² Percentages are based on the total number of fathers whose ages were identified by unmarried mothers within each category.

³ "Total" includes fathers with unknown ages

- Among unmarried women ages 20 and older, 96.8% of the named fathers were also 20 and older. This represents a very slight increase from the 96.1% figure of 1997 (1997 data not shown). Among unmarried teens (<20 years of age), 56.8% of the named fathers were 20 and older.
- Among unmarried teen mothers ages 12-15, the percentage of named fathers who were 20 and older decreased greatly from 25.7% in 1997 to 17.5% in 1998. Similarly, among 16-17 year old unmarried mothers, the percentage of named fathers who were 20 or older dropped from 43.4% in 1997 to 39.7% in 1998 (1997 data not shown).